

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Soviet Troop Movements in Weissenfels Area	DATE DISTR.	7 May 1954
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1. On 12 March 1954 the unloading of 42 Joseph Stalin tanks was observed at the Weissenfels rail head. The armored vehicles were detrained at the Weissenfels freight station, where there is a special ramp for the loading and unloading of tanks. Immediately after the unloading each vehicle was driven by its own crew to the Weissenfels Panzer Kaserne, located in the outskirts of the city. The road leading to it was blocked off by Volkspolizei from 8:00 p.m. on, and traffic was not permitted until 11:00 p.m., when the armored vehicles had all reached the caserne.
2. Numbers on the tanks were covered with old newspapers. [REDACTED] the armor as considerably larger and heavier than the model T 34 [REDACTED] The vehicles were clean and in new or overhauled condition.
3. On 21 March a tank column consisting of 38 x T 34 tanks was seen on the road from Grimma to Leipzig. The column was preceded and followed by Soviet MPs on motorcycles and jeeps, while Studebaker trucks interspersed in the column carried personnel, field kitchens and ammunition boxes. The Russian soldiers riding them wore steel helmets and appeared fully equipped for field exercises. Numbers on trucks, tanks, and jeeps were covered up with paper, whitewash and mud. The column proceeded at a fast pace, needing approximately 40 minutes to pass the observation point. Only six tanks were equipped with rod-type antennae. The convoy travelled in the direction of Leipzig and was observed at the intersection of the road mentioned above and the road leading to Otterwisch.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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